



## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

### ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter and Ranking Member Ike Skelton Announce Membership of Defense Review Threat Panel**

#### ***Reps. Tauscher and Turner to Co-Chair Bipartisan Process to Identify Potential Strategic Threats to United States National Security***

**Washington, D.C.** --- House Armed Services Committee Chairman Duncan Hunter (R-CA) and Ranking Member Ike Skelton (D-MO) today announced the bipartisan membership of the committee's Defense Review (CDR) Threat Panel, which will be co-chaired by Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-CA) and Rep. Michael Turner (R-OH). The Threat Panel, the first phase of the CDR, will identify and categorize potential strategic threats to United States national security over the next twenty years. The panel's first hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. in 2212 Rayburn House Office Building and will focus on Latin America.

Additional members, representing an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, who volunteered to serve on the Threat Panel include: Rep. Michael Conaway (R-TX), Rep. Jim Cooper (D-TN), Rep. Jo Ann Davis (R-VA), Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA), Rep. John Kline (R-MN), Rep. James Langevin (D-RI), Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH), Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D-CA), Rep. Joe Schwarz (R-MI) and Rep. Rob Simmons (R-CT).

"We are excited to get the committee's Defense Review underway and are confident in the abilities of these members to identify potential strategic threats," said Rep. Hunter. "This is the first step in a process that will provide House Armed Services Committee members with a better understanding of potential security threats and military capabilities identified in the Department of Defense's Quadrennial Defense Review."

"This Defense Review provides the committee an excellent opportunity to thoroughly examine the future needs of our military based on real-world threats, and I look forward to the initial framework that will be developed by this excellent, bipartisan group of Members," said Rep. Skelton.

"This is a very important process. We are charged with envisioning the source of all emerging threats to the United States and then balancing them against our current military capabilities," said Rep. Turner. "This information will become critical in shaping U.S. military budgets, service structures and platforms in the coming years. Our responsibility is to ensure that the nation has the proper military to deliver a sufficient and speedy response to every possible threat."

“I look forward to this opportunity to conduct a sound, thorough examination of the threats America faces and what gaps exist in our ability to address them. I believe it’s critical that we have a bipartisan, cooperative effort which will enhance our review of the Pentagon’s capabilities-based QDR—an effort that looks at what challenges we’re confronting, rather than what weapons programs we want to advance,” said Rep. Ellen O. Tauscher.

The House Armed Services Committee Defense Review is designed to serve as an independent, bipartisan process that complements the Department of Defense’s Quadrennial Defense Review. The CDR’s Threat Panel will be followed by a second series of panels that will identify existing United States military capabilities and future defense requirements to address those threats. The final phase of the CDR will integrate these recommendations into a report to be released in 2006.

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